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CASEY-MINERALS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY SAYS THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME SO DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN MINERALS THAT LOSS OF ACCESS TO THEM COULD HALT U.S. MANUFACTURE OF PRODUCTS RANGING FROM TELEVISION SETS TO SUPERSONIC JETS.

IN THE EVENT OF A SUPPLY CUTOFF, CASEY SAID TUESDAY, THE AMERICAN ECONOMY WOULD SUFFER A ''MASSIVE SHOCK,'' EQUAL TO THAT WHICH WOULD OCCUR IF OIL IMPORTS WERE SUSPENDED.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES, CASEY SAID AMERICAN PROSPERITY IS CONTROLLED BY FOREIGN NATIONS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.

''OTHERS, WELL AWAY FROM OUR BORDERS, CAN NOW PLACE THEIR HANDS ON OUR ECONOMIC THROTTLES,'' HE SAID. ''INTERNATIONAL THREATS ARE NOT LIMITED TO MILITARY ONES.

''THERE ARE OTHER POWER PROJECTIONS FAR MORE SUBTLE BECAUSE THEY ARE LARGELY UNSEEN AND THUS NOT READILY PERCEIVED.''

AMONG THE IMPORTED MINERALS ---- AVAILABLE MOSTLY FROM SOUTHERN AFRICAN NATIONS ---- REGARDED AS STRATEGIC BY CASEY ARE CHROMITE, COBALT AND TANTALUM.

WITHOUT THESE AND OTHER MINERALS, ''WE CANNOT MAKE TV SETS, OR COMPUTERS OR HEART-LUNG MACHINES OR PRODUCE HIGH-GRADE STAINLESS STEEL FOR A THOUSAND USES,'' CASEY SAID. ''THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES ARE JUST AS GRIM. NO SUPERSONIC JETS AND NO SOPHISTICATED SUBMARINES.''

CASEY SAID AMERICAN ACCESS TO STRATEGIC MINERALS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY QUESTIONABLE, PARTLY BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION IS BEGINNING TO COMPETE WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SAME RESOURCES IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

BEYOND THAT, CONTROL OVER THESE RESOURCES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS BEEN SHIFTING FROM COMMERCIAL TO STATE DOMINANCE. THIS REPRESENTS A CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH COULD MEAN A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR THE SOVIETS, HE SAID.

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